



## The Daily Oregonian

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 1882.

## THE PUBLIC BUILDING DIVIDE.

Just before the adjournment, Mr. Shulberger, the chairman of the house committee on public buildings and grounds, made a statement of the work done by his committee, and the corresponding committee of the senate, together with the action of congress thereon. It appears that there were 129 separate buildings asked for in house bills and 66 in senate bills; the number asked for in both houses was 195. The house committee reported favorably upon 100 bills, the senate committee twenty-seven, and both committees sixty-nine. Thirty-three bills passed both houses of congress. The ultimate cost of all the buildings asked for would have been \$20,240,000. The cost of the buildings authorized by congress will be \$5,750,000. The total amount of the present appropriations therof is \$2,327,000. The amount appropriated for buildings and grounds authorized by previous congresses, including buildings under the war, interior and treasury departments, was \$8,824,500. Thirty-three new buildings were authorized at the last session, as follows:

Number of places	Amount	Percent approximate
Brooklyn, N. Y.	\$80,000	100,000
Columbus, O.	250,000	300,000
Des Moines, Iowa	100,000	100,000
Duluth, Minn.	100,000	100,000
Detroit, Mich.	600,000	600,000
Fair Haven, Ind.	100,000	100,000
Frankfort, Ky.	100,000	100,000
Gainesville, Ga.	50,000	50,000
Greensboro, N. C.	50,000	50,000
Hannibal, Mo.	50,000	50,000
Hartford, Conn.	25,000	25,000
Jackson, Tenn.	30,000	30,000
Lafayette, Ind.	50,000	50,000
Lynchburg, Va.	100,000	100,000
Minneapolis, Minn.	175,000	175,000
Oxford, Miss.	200,000	200,000
Portland, Ore.	200,000	200,000
Potosi, Ill.	225,000	225,000
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	150,000	150,000
Rochester, N. Y.	300,000	300,000
Sacramento, Cal.	75,000	75,000
Shreveport, La.	100,000	100,000
Terry Haven, Ind.	150,000	150,000
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	100,000	100,000
Total.	\$3,750,000	\$2,732,500

Appropriations were made for continuation of work on buildings authorized by previous congresses, the improvement of grounds connected therewith, etc., as follows:

Montgomery, Ala.	Amount
Little Rock, Ark.	3,000
Washington, D. C.	25,000
Barford, Conn.	10,000
Caro, Ill.	4,000
Chicago, Ill.	30,000
Paducah, Ky.	100,000
New Orleans, La.	100,000
Baltimore, Md.	100,000
Boston, Mass.	100,000
Fall River, Mass.	75,000
St. Louis, Mo.	125,000
Jersey City, N. J.	25,000
New York, N. Y.	25,000
Utica, N. Y.	50,000
Cleveland, O.	30,000
Cincinnati, O.	100,000
Toledo, O.	200,000
Philadelphia, Pa.	400,000
Newark, N. J.	5,000
Nashville, Tenn.	10,000
Charleston, W. Va.	10,000
Buildings under the control of the treasury department.	65,500
Total.	\$3,450,000

The total appropriations for buildings at the last session, including the buildings under the care of the department, was \$6,357,000. The average aggregate of appropriations during the thirty-eight years past, from forty and forty-five appropriations were \$1,750,000. An agreed appropriation in the last four years has been as follows:

Forty-four congress.	\$3,731,62
Forty-five congress.	4,637,475
Forty-six congress.	3,630,000

It will be seen that the appropriations in the session just closed were nearly as large as in both sessions of the two immediate preceding congresses, and more than all the appropriations in the forty-fourth congress. The government has lately erected very costly buildings in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis for the accommodation of courts, postoffices and custom houses. It is hoped that when these buildings were completed there would be a decrease in the amount of appropriations; but there has actually been a large increase, though few new works of national importance have been authorized. If the appropriations at the next session should be as large as at the session just closed the forty-seventh congress will spend for this purpose \$12,600,000, or \$4,600,000 more than any previous session.

The plan upon which those public buildings are "awarded" is shamefully wrong. When a government building is proposed it is not so well considered whether the government needs it or not, what its political effect will be. Just as congressional districts are fixed by a award of money for pretended river or harbor improvement, so they are fixed by a share in the public building divide. Party debts, too, are paid at the public cost by this means. Mr. Malone, for "standing in" with the majority, is to be paid by the government for public buildings in two or three doubtful localities in his state. The government should put up buildings where it needs them and when it needs them; and it is shabby business to allow other considerations to enter into the matter.

**THE SPRING WHEAT CROP.**

The August returns of the department of agriculture for spring wheat are full of interest. The report as to condition to the best point out in any month of August for years. Measured by the conventional standard of the department, the condition of "spring wheat" is 97 this month against 100 last. The slight decline is probably caused by the ravages of rust and insects in some limited localities in the northwestern states, mainly in Iowa and southern Minnesota. The highest August percentage for three years past is 98 in 1880, when the crop was notably good throughout the northwest generally, though in Minnesota it suffered from blight. This year the highest average is in Nebraska, and Dakota Wisconsin and Minnesota come next in order given. Notwithstanding the high average the department does not expect the high estimates of the aggregate wheat product locally made by some New York commercial papers. The department justly takes into account the small areas of acreage in both the winter and spring wheat growing states, and does not place the aggregate yield much above 500,000,000 bushels. This is a conservative and probably safe estimate. The extrapolations of the New York papers are obviously made for the purpose of bearing the price. Perhaps the most valuable feature of the report of the department is the authentic statement it is able to make upon the authority of correspondents abroad, of the condition of foreign crops. This report does not justify the gloomy view of the European outlook taken by another class of speculators, whose interest it is to exaggerate the foreign demand. There is apparently an average crop throughout Great Britain and the continent, with some small discounts by reason of recent bad weather. Of course a prolonged war may have the same effect as a failure of crops in increasing the demand upon America; but if this element does not enter into the question, it will be unreasonable to expect larger exports than those of last year, which I fear will be sold together or separately.

**MRS. S. J. DAWSON.**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1882.—HANNAH HILL, a native of Scotland, and a member of the Free Church of Scotland, will be present this evening.

**NOTICE.**

ON THE INSTANT, AT 10 A. M., at the offices of N. J. LAWRENCE, 101 Morrison Street, will be presented the annual report of the Board of Trade, and the annual report of the Board of Commissioners of Fisheries.

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